

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OPR-02 SY-04

SCCT-02 USSS-00 FBIE-00 DRC-01 /107 R

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APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

AF:WMULCAHY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, SL

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONEAN STUDENTS STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS

1. APPROXIMATELY 50 SIERRA LEONEAN NATIONALS CLAIMING TO BE MEMBERS OF THE SIERRA LEONE STUDENT LEAGUE OF US AND CANADA STAGED ONE HOUR DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF DEPARTMENT SEPT 18. SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION HELD EARLIER IN DAY AT EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE. DEMONSTRATORS WERE ORDERLY AND CARRIED SIGNS THAT READ QUOTE FREEDOM FOR OPPONENTS OF STEVENS' GOVERNMENT, UNQUOTE, QUOTE MASS MURDERS UNJUST, UNQUOTE, QUOTE FREEDOM NOW, UNQUOTE, ETC. ACCORDING TO SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED IN ORDER PROTEST ALLEGED MASS EXECUTIONS PLANNED FOR SEPT 20 OF APPROXIMATELY 150 SIERRA LEONEAN NATIONALS IN FREETOWN. ALLEGED PROSPECTIVE VICTIMS SUPPOSEDLY CHARGED BY GOSL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF FINANCE MINISTER KAMARA-TAYLOR.

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DR. FORNAH BASH-TAQUI AND BRIGADIER LANSANA SUPPOSEDLY

AMONG THOSE TO BE EXECUTED WITHOUT TRIAL.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD DESPITE ATTEMPTS BY SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY TO ASSURE GROUP THAT REPORT OF EXECUTIONS WAS A HOAX. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT GROUP OF SIERRA LEONE NATIONALS PLANS TO STAGE SIMILAR TYPE DEMONSTRATIONS AT UN DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. DEMONSTRATORS LEFT DEPT. COPY OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT STEVENS PROTESTING QUOTE MASS ARRESTS UNQUOTE, CALLING FOR FAIR TRIALS OF THOSE ARRESTED AND FOR RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. COPY BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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